GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1588
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
FM RADIO FREQUENCY
Maharia Shri Subhash

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of FM radio frequencies of Aakashvani and private broadcasters functioning in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has offered to introduce more FM radio frequencies in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) the time by when these are likely to be made operational;

(e) the details of revenue earned as one-time entry fees from various broadcasters by the Government during each of the last three years till date, State-wise; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to earn more revenue through FM radio?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI)

(a) The details of FM Radio Stations of AIR and Private Broadcasters functioning in the country at present are at Annexure-I.

(b) to (d) The Government has also signed agreements with Private Broadcasters for operationalisation of 122 channels. These channels are likely to be operational by March 2008. Besides, Government has also invited tenders for allotment of 97 vacant channels. The details of these channels are given at Annexure II.

(e) The details are indicated at Annexure-III.

(f) The main objective of the policy of expansion of FM radio broadcasting services through private agencies (Phase-II) is to attract private agencies to supplement and complement the efforts of All India Radio by operationalising radio stations that provide programmes with local content and relevance, improve the quality of fidelity in reception and generation, encouraging participation by local talent and generating employment. In furtherance of these objectives in Phase-II, number of new measures have been taken to facilitate growth of FM Radio Industry like introduction of 20% FDI in FM industry, allowing networking in C & D category cities within the same region, shifting from fixed licence fee model to revenue sharing model etc.